

Message Text

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71-62

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 L-03 TRSE-00 SSO-00 SS-15

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 STR-04 PA-01

USIE-00 PRS-01 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HTNELSON:RLW

APPROVED BY EA:LEEDMOND

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EB/OPF:FMCELDFOWNEY

EA/PA:WMAGRUDER

AGR/FAS:RANDERS

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O P 150050Z NOV 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, US, AS

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN MEAT -
PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 270017

1. IN ADDITION TO USDA PRESS RELEASE SENT TO AGATTS, IN
RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO STATE THAT
THE USG HAS INVOKED SECTION 204 OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACT
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OF 1956 WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTS OF BEEF, VEAL AND OTHER

PRODUCTS (TSUS 106.10 AND 106.20)FROM AUSTRALIA.

2. THIS ACTION LIMITS THE ENTRY FOR CONSUMPTION OF THESE PRODUCTS TO 638.5 MILLION POUNDS FROM AUSTRALIA DURING CY1975.

3. ACCORDING TO US CENSUS FIGURES, THE ALLOWABLE QUANTITY HAS ALREADY ENTERED THE US MARKET. TODAY'S ACTION, EFFECTIVE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, IN EFFECT PROHIBITS FURTHER IMPORTATION OF THESE PRODUCTS FOR CONSUMPTION UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1976.

4. THE USG HAS TAKEN THIS ACTION RELUCTANTLY FOLLOWING LENGTHY CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT NO OTHER OPTION WAS AVAILABLE UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEAT ACT OF 1964 AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER SIGNATORIES OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS.

5. IN EVENT ACCUSATION IS RAISED THAT US ACTION WAS SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED, YOU MAY NOTE THAT THIS ACTION FOLLOWS SEVERAL MONTHS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS AND DISCUSSIONS ON LEVEL OF MEAT SHIPMENTS AND SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO GOA OR AUSTRALIAN MEAT BOARD.

6. IT MAY ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRALIA RECEIVED 52.1 PERCENT OF THE INITIAL ALLOCATION OF MEAT IMPORTS UNDER THE 1975 RESTRAINT PROGRAM TOTAL OF 1,180 MILLION POUNDS (615.1 MILLION POUNDS). IN ADDITION, A FURTHER ALLOCATION OF 23.4 MILLION POUNDS (OR 66 PERCENT) WAS GIVEN TO AUSTRALIA WHEN A SHORTFALL OF 35 MILLION POUNDS FROM OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE RESTRAINT PROGRAM WAS DECLARED IN SEPTEMBER. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM HAS ALLOWED AUSTRALIA TO RETAIN ITS MARKET SHARE AND INCREASE ITS VOLUME FROM 1974 EXPORTS OF MEAT TO THE US.

7. FOR WELLINGTON: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED NOT TO DISCUSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECT OF THIS ACTION ON POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL SHORT-FALL ALLOCATION. GUIDANCE WILL BE GIVEN ASAP. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, IMPORT CONTROLS, IMPORT QUOTAS, MEATS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE270919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HTNELSON:RLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750397-1040
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751141/aaaabkek.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 270017
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN MEAT - PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: EAGR, US, AS
To: CANBERRA WELLINGTON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006